



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of DE MEUTER et al.

Serial no. 09/586,964

Group Art Unit: 1761

Filed: 5 June 2000

Examiner: L.A. Wong

For: SUGAR-FREE HARD COATINGS PREPARED FROM LIQUID MIXTURES OF  
ERYTHRITOL AND SORBITOL

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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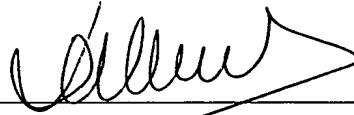
Sir:

I, Pascale, Adolphine, Emilienne DE MEUTER declare and state as follows:

1. I am the inventor of the above patent application. I am a qualified chemist and have a PhD in Applied Science (Physico-chemistry). I have been employed for 12 years in the Research and Development Centre of the firm, which is known Cerestar R& D Centre at Vilvoorde, Belgium. At the date of filing of the aforementioned patent application, I was working in the field of bulk sweeteners, especially for development of sugar-free hard coatings based on polyols. For the past few years I was Senior Specialist Centre of Excellence Functionalities.
2. I was supervising the experimental work related to the hard coating prepared from liquid mixtures of sorbitol and erythritol.
3. It is only after extensive trials that we have found the uniform hard coating and the good adhesion of the hard coating. The description and the results of these trials are summarised in annex.
4. I am aware of the patent issued to Rosenplenter (Cerestar Holding B.V.), US 6,017,567 (= EP 0 813 817). The patent relates to a process for coating cores wherein the sorbitol syrup is applied to a rotating mass of cores and then at least one other polyol is added in crystalline form.

5. The preparation of hard coatings by applying liquid mixtures of sorbitol and erythritol as indicated in the subject patent application and as illustrated in the example submitted herewith was not described anywhere before. In addition, it could not be expected that application of liquid mixtures of sorbitol and erythritol results in homogeneous smooth hard coating.

The undersigned further declares that all statements made herein of her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title of The United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardise the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.



Pascale, Adolphine, ~~Emilienne~~ DE MEUTER

Date: 23/09/2002